

S. 3881, the Children's Health Insurance Program Pandemic Enhancement and Relief (CHIPPER) Act

Introduced by Senator Casey

Congress should take every step necessary to ensure the health and well-being of American children as we confront the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that we must promote access to comprehensive health insurance coverage that can protect their physical and mental well-being, such as the coverage provided through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Unfortunately, under current law, federal support for the CHIP program is scheduled to decrease in October. If Congress does not take action before then, the 11.5 percent enhanced federal match for CHIP that has been in place since the last extension of its funding will come to an end.

It is unacceptable that federal support for CHIP could decline during a pandemic, especially given the risk that communities and families could face from a second wave of the outbreak in the fall. S. 3881 would extend the enhanced federal match for CHIP for an extra year for states that:

- Extend to their CHIP programs the same requirements that are in place for the enhanced federal match for Medicaid under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act;
- Eliminate waiting periods for CHIP enrollment; and
- Actively seek to re-enroll individuals who have been removed from CHIP coverage.

Ultimately, S. 3881 will ensure that states that meet reasonable requirements to safeguard and expand enrollment during the national emergency do not experience a decrease in federal support for their CHIP programs.

National Endorsements

American Academy of Pediatrics
Children's Hospital Association
Families USA
First Focus Campaign for Children
KidsPeace

State Endorsements

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Geisinger Janet Weis Children's Hospital
Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital
Pennsylvania CHIP
St. Luke's University Health Network

Cosponsorship

To cosponsor the CHIPPER Act, please contact Doug Hartman with Senator Bob Casey's office at Doug_Hartman@help.senate.gov.